

The Electric Mercury

U.S. Army Medical Command Electronic News Summary, November 2001

**For more on these and other important stories, see November 2001 printed issue of The Mercury.
This is a service of the Public Affairs Office, Headquarters MEDCOM.**

Process promises better Pap screening for Army patients

The Army is providing women the newest, most effective technology in the battle against cervical cancer. All Pap smears taken in Army facilities soon will be evaluated using liquid-based cytology (LBC) for cervical cancer screening, and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) DNA testing will help clarify ambiguous results.

War against terrorists commences

As the *Mercury* went to press in mid-October, U.S. forces and a coalition of allies began military action against the Al Qaeda terrorist group and Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Officials expect homeland defense to be vital in this war, and Army medical personnel can expect to play a key role, both in prevention of and in response to terrorist actions.

AMEDD mourns losses at Pentagon

The Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon killed two AMEDD people. LTC Karen J. Wagner, 40, was medical personnel policy officer for the Army deputy chief of staff for personnel. Marjorie Salamone, a 53-year-old Army civilian, was the wife of retired COL Ben Salamone, former deputy director of the DoD Veterinary Service Activity.

Stress takes fast action, long commitment

Army Medicine has learned to treat emotional as well as physical injuries. Army people tormented by terrorist attacks can seek care from stress-control experts. Need may last years, but the initial response took only minutes. (With sidebar on stress-control training.)

AMEDD plays key roles against terror

Sept. 11 changed us but not the way the enemy wanted, writes Army Surgeon General and Medical Command commander LTG James B. Peake in his column. It strengthened us, brought us together, and tightened our resolve. Medics responded magnificently.

Other important stories in the November *Mercury* include:

- USACHPPM experts find no air-quality health hazards in Pentagon after attack.
- Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act protects activated Reservists and Guardsmen.
- DoD Healthcare Quality Initiatives Review Panel wants unified military medical command plus improved TRICARE oversight, credentials management and data systems.
- Battlefield bleeding deaths may plummet if new Red Cross hemostatic dressing proves effective in clinical trials funded by Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.
- Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support System uses commercial “best practices” in medical logistics, cutting inventories and costs in an all-electronic environment.
- National Vaccine Healthcare Center opens at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.
- AMEDD Board reports good results from tests of Chemical/Biological Protective Shelter, a portable shelter that lets medics work without clumsy protective clothing.
- DoD seeks Russian anthrax variant in order to test effectiveness of U.S. vaccine.
- Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Ga., is leader in technology and customer service.
- Vickii L. Thomas, medical-records director at Fort Riley, Kan., MEDDAC, is the 2001 Army Outstanding Employee of the Year with a Physical Disability.
- MEDCOM softball tourney winners are Fort Sam Houston, Texas (men’s large units); 1st Medical Brigade (men’s small units); and Fort Hood, Texas, MEDDAC (women’s).
- Chuck Dasey, Medical Research and Materiel Command public affairs officer, celebrates 50th birthday by climbing Peru’s highest mountain.
- Photos: PVT 2 Janet Barragan, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, paints face in Expert Field Medical Badge training; AMEDD Center and School students do table-top hospital layout; therapist SGT Maria Mejia, Fort Drum, N.Y., massages athlete at Ironman USA Triathlon; USAMRIID aeromedical isolation team does demo; SFC Andres Hortillosa, AMEDD Center and School, and SGT Ken Davidson, Fort Detrick, Md., make All-Army chess team; SPC Mark Smith, 557th Medical Company, shows German soldiers U.S. ambulance equipment; CPT Scott Blomberg, Task Force Med Falcon IV, tests glasses on woman in Kosovo; triage officer tests “casualty” during exercise on Midway; Tripler Army Medical Center and Pacific Command staff observe Vietnamese surgeons during first U.S.-Vietnam military medical exchange.
- Commentary: Historian T. R. Fehrenbach argues that blue-collar courage, the courage of ordinary people, is what will enable America to prevail in its current struggle.